

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/839,944

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Applicant(s)

BAE, DONG-HOON

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 19 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-15 and 41-49.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Josephine Chang on 16 March 2005.

1. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A content indexing structure stored in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

a first indexing level having a plurality of first-level content indexes coupled in a substantially circular manner, a first first-level content index being selected from a first set of first-level content indexes sharing a first category feature as a first representative index for the first set, and a second first-level content index being selected from a second set of first-level content indexes sharing a second category feature as a second representative index for the second set;

a second indexing level having a plurality of second-level content indexes coupled in a substantially circular manner, the second-level content indexes corresponding to representative indexes in the first indexing level,

wherein a user traverses from the first set of first-level content indexes sharing the first category feature to the second set of first-level content indexes sharing the second category feature in response to a first user action without first invoking the second indexing level, and traverses second-level content indexes and representative indexes in the first indexing level in response to a second user action.

Claim 49 has been amended as follows:

49. (Currently Amended) A content indexing structure stored in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

a first indexing level having a plurality of first-level content indexes coupled in a substantially circular manner, a first first-level content index being selected from a first set of first-level content indexes sharing a first category feature as a first representative index for the first set, and a second first-level content index being selected from a second set of first-level content indexes sharing a second category feature as a second representative index for the second set;

a second indexing level having a plurality of second-level content indexes coupled in a substantially circular manner, the second-level content indexes being composed of the representative indexes in the first indexing level,

wherein a user traverses from one first-level content index to another first-level content index in response to a first user action, and traverses from one representative index to another representative index in the first and second indexing levels in response to a second user action.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Neither Zellweger, May, Delano, nor Ukai, taken alone or in combination, provide sufficient disclosure to teach or suggest the claimed content indexing structure having first and second indexing levels, each level having a plurality of content indexes coupled in a substantially circular manner...having representative indexes as recited in the independent claims, and showing traversal from a first set of first-level content indexes sharing a first category feature to a second set of first-level content indexes sharing a second category feature in response to a first user action without first invoking the second indexing level, and showing traversal of second-level content indexes and representative indexes in the first indexing level in response to a second user action...in combination with the remaining elements of independent claims 1 & 8. Independent claim 49 recites similar limitations, and further requires that the second-level content indexes be composed of the representative indexes in the first indexing level.

None of the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests these limitations of the independent claims. For further details, see applicant's remarks on pages 11-15 of the response filed 19 November 2004.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 571-272-4020. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bdg
16 March 2005.


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